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## **Minutes of Meeting**

October 19, 2004

Present:        Commission  
Sue Cone, Village of Calumet  
Rev. Robert Langseth  
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township  
Tom Nemacheck, UP Travel and Recreation Association  
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/ Franklin Township  
Kim Hoagland, Michigan Technological University  
Ron Welton, Executive Director

National Park Service – Keweenaw National Historical Park  
Frank Fiala, Superintendent  
Tom Baker, Management Assistant  
Steve DeLong, Landscape Architect  
Dan Johnson, Interpretation & Education  
Betsy Rossini, Administrative Officer ISRO & KEWE  
Jo Urion, Historian  
Jonathan Church, Transportation Planner

Guests  
Jim Boyce, Houghton Resident  
Julie Sprenger, Laurium Manor Inn  
Denise Korman, Houghton County Historical Society  
Amy Wisti, Office of Congressman Bart Stupak  
Ed Yarbrough, Quincy Mine Hoist  
Dave Thomas, Keweenaw County Historical Society  
Clarence Monette, Keweenaw County Historical Society  
Garrett Neese, Daily Mining Gazette  
Sylvia Eix, Calumet Resident  
Gene La Rochelle, Calumet Resident

Absent: Kathryn Eckert, Commissioner

Recording Secretary: Susan Burack

## **I. Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, October 19, 2004 at Saint Anne's Heritage Center in Calumet. Chair Paul Lehto called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Paul noted that this is the first Commission meeting in the basement of Saint Anne's Heritage Center, which presented an opportunity to describe the renovation needs of the space: a white ceiling and lights would make it brighter. Paul summarized the work remaining to be done in the basement and the status of bids for the steeple, handicapped access, and finishing the basement. St. Anne's has received loan money from Rural Development. They solicited bids for tuck-pointing the steeple. They had projected spending \$25,000 on the project, but there were no bids except a verbal one for \$69,000. The handicapped access and putting in the ceiling were bid as well, again, hoping for \$50,000 to \$70,000, but the low bid was \$108,000. They may end up turning down the loan and grant request and put the ceiling in with their own money, and then in the spring try to raise the \$26,000 or \$28,000, which they think on an hourly basis might be feasible for tuck pointing the steeple. Of concern is that if you accept federal funds, which includes Rural Development, then the first thing you have to use the money for is a handicapped access to the building, which came in at \$75,000 to \$80,000, for something that will probably be used only once or twice a year.

## **II. Introductions**

Kim Hoagland, new member of the Commission, replacing Larry Lankton, was introduced and welcomed.

Frank Fiala introduced Park Staff present.

Paul introduced Amy Wisti, from the Office of Congressman Bart Stupak.

Diana Charles had called expressing apologies for her absence due to a staff meeting she was attending in Traverse City.

## **III. Agenda**

The agenda was approved with a revision in the order of reports, moving Gene La Rochelle to talk, but would be a half hour late.

## **IV. Review of Minutes**

Due to late arrival of the minutes, approval was delayed until later in the meeting to allow time for review.

Ron thanked Jane Nordberg for her work for the Commission. She will no longer be able to serve as recording secretary.

## **V. Business/Reports**

### **A. Report from Transportation Planner**

Jonathan Church, the Transportation Planner provided a presentation. It was the last meeting he was able to attend and he wanted to update the Commission on the planning process. The presentation was as follows: Jonathan is working here as part of the Transportation Scholars Program with the National Park Foundation and Ford Foundation. They are set up to go to assigned National Parks throughout the country to assist park staff and local communities around parks with transportation planning issues. In the Keweenaw, he has worked on developing an alternative transportation plan to connect the twelve miles between the Quincy and Calumet Units. The Quincy Smelter is of big interest to the park to become its Visitor Center. Jonathan has worked with Frank, Tom, Steve De Long and John Rosemurgy to come up with a plan to connect the Quincy Smelter with the Quincy Unit and further on. Data has been collected from the City of

Hancock and Calumet; two series of public meetings were held in late August and early October. They have designed concepts, which they are working through, and plan to have a report finished by the end of December. The question was raised as to their major discoveries so far. Jonathan replied that there are a lot of sites of interest all up and down the peninsula, but they are primarily focused on connecting the two main units of the park and the smelter with a loop bus system that would go from the smelter out through Calumet, down M-26 back to the smelter, and eventually including two segments of the streetcar system, which would go from the smelter to the Quincy Unit and a streetcar within downtown Calumet. Jonathan is working on preliminary data on cost estimates and feasibility analysis. Another question was raised about the purpose of the two systems, bus and rail. Jonathan stated that the reason for two separate systems is due to cost. Connecting the two units completely by rail was estimated to be in the multiple millions. The park is in the middle of a visitor survey. Until there is solid data, it's hard to estimate how many people would be riding the system. However, there are estimates from each of the Cooperating Sites as well as the main units. Working with those, it seems that using the existing infrastructure in the beginning is the way to go. If the rail goes in, there will be combination rail and bus.

## B. Executive Director's Report

Ron reported that representatives from the Cooperating Sites are meeting twice yearly. Today is their fall meeting. Twenty-eight people are expected to attend.

Ron congratulated Kim on her appointment and Sue Cone on her reappointment for a three year term. To keep the reappointment cycle on track, the Commission needs to consider the appointment replacement of the next cycle of Commission Appointments that expire, Paul Lehto and Kathryn Eckert. They and the commission will have to decide whether they want reappointments or replacements. Kathryn Eckert today is absent due to a teaching obligation at Historical Preservation School at Eastern Michigan University.

A group in the Marquette area is intent in developing an Iron Trails Heritage Area with support from the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries as well as input from the National Park Service. The project is moving forward.

At the last meeting of the year, meeting dates are set for the next year. The Director's Report has note of the dates for 2005. Reverend Langseth requested that the first meeting be changed to January 18, 2005. The schedule change was approved.

Director Tom Tikkanen usually represents the Main Street Calumet program at the commission meeting, but he was unable to attend today. He submitted the following report: A delegation from Main Street Calumet will attend the Downtown Revitalization Conference (hosted by the MEDC) in Bay City next week.

### Main Street Calumet Committee Reports:

1. The Design Committee has submitted applications for building façade design assistance and grants for building owners in the Main Street district. They are also developing an outline for a network of way-finding signs approaching Calumet and in the downtown area. The new Design Resource Library that will be housed at the Calumet Public Library will have a grand opening October 28, which will coincide with the Fourth Thursday in History program cosponsored by the park and Copper Country Archives.
2. The Promotions Committee is planning a Christmas celebration and retail promotion as well as an Arts Day downtown to coincide with the annual Poor Artists Sale on December 4 at the school.

3. The Organization Committee has produced a Main Street informational brochure, developed a membership program, launched a membership drive, and has just completed the third quarter Main Street Newsletter.
4. The Economic Restructuring Committee has met with the DEQ regarding brownfield redevelopment in the Main Street District.

There is a Design Workshop on November 11. People applying for façade grants are required to attend.

Paul noted that Main Street has funded three façades already, with permission to do three more designs. Apart from that the Township has a \$125,000 MSHDA grant for façades and demolition. The two projects overlap, so the Township Board has come up with a joint application to apply for façade improvements downtown. The Township Grant could be \$25,000, probably the State Farm Building, and façade improvements, MSHDA is promoting 6 to 7 façade projects for \$10,000 - \$15,000. The joint application facilitates different deadlines, with MSHDA's being in November. Of the six or seven projects that the township approves, maybe three of those projects are in the design phase of Main Street's project. Main Street's "Showcase" projects are for architectural assistance, as distinguished between the money coming through MSHDA through the township. It's the first ever MSHDA grant in use for façade improvements. It's quite a change for MSHDA to put money into demolition. The fact that it is not tied to housing is a change in direction for MSHDA. It is mostly because Main Street and MSHDA have joined hands and MSHDA and MEDC want money put in Main Street communities, which is good news for Calumet.

#### C. Superintendent's Report

Frank welcomed Kim to the Commission and congratulated Sue on her reappointment. He suggested looking at all of the appointments to keep the positions filled. The charter was approved. There is a faxed copy and the original is being tracked down, which is proving challenging due to personnel shifts in the Washington office. Paul's seat representing Calumet Township and Kathryn, another at-large, will require another public process requesting applications. This will have to happen in the near future for these two seats. A question was raised if the process is the same for reappointment as it is for appointment, and answered that yes, it is.

Frank wanted to recognize publicly how much work the staff at the Keweenaw National Historical Park is doing right now. It has been a tremendously busy summer in a variety of areas, which has been significantly challenging for the work force and work force planning. He wanted to publicly go on record applauding the efforts of the staff. The sheer volume of work is monumental and it is getting more and more involved, particularly with electronic coordination, which requires people to sit in front of computers for inordinate amounts of time, decreasing public interface. It's a real concern for a service-oriented organization. He iterated his sincerest appreciation for the work the staff does performing in a nebulous environment with constantly changing rules and regulations. Everyone is working very hard to bring forth the vision that was created with the park.

The Transportation Planning document is will be prepared by the end of December and will present the preferred alternative for directing transportation for the future of the park. It's a pertinent study for the nature of the park. Economic development and opportunity are required if the park is to succeed and one way to do this is to invest in public infrastructure that promotes extended stays and provide alternative transportation and authentic experiences. The streetcar operation in the Quincy and the Calumet units will provide this.

There has been a change in the resource planning efforts in the National Park Service, switching over to "Resource Stewardship Planning." This is designed to provide "desired future conditions"

to see what, in a 5 to 10 year period, both units of the park and the Cooperating Sites would look like in the future. There was a three-day effort to develop "statements of significance," of what is valued as important in the park, and develop those into the "desired future condition" vision. Some money was set aside from the regional office to provide a facilitator for that effort. A document is anticipated by the end of March.

The park continues to be heavily involved in Main Street, which will have a substantial impact on the future of Calumet. As a result of the excitement and enthusiasm generated by the various committees lots of work is created, all of which is interrelated. The issue of signage and wayfinding has come up and Steve DeLong is working on concepts to use throughout the park and in Calumet. They will share those concepts for signage with their work in public meetings and also with the Advisory Commission.

The Union Building bids came in over and will be rebid with an April 1 start and a November 30 finish. Two firms were in final competition, but they couldn't bring it in to the available dollars.

Quinn Evans is looking at fire suppression installation in the History Center (the old C & H Library) and beginning planning efforts to redesign the park headquarters. A Value Analysis will be conducted on November 16 - 18.

The regional office sent someone to do a Level I appraisal of land and now there is need for Level II due to asbestos and lead paint issues, and the park is in the process of contracting those.

The four-lane extension on Quincy Hill is finished and turned out well. It has resolved the issue of heavy truck traffic down hill and the delay people were having. Thanks to Steve DeLong for his efforts in guiding that project along.

The Historic Resource Study (HRS) has been submitted to the park and we are under a heavy review in terms of trying to get it read; it's 500 pages. A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday to begin a park discussion on that document.

The budget: there is a continuing resolution until November 20 and it is dependent on the election. We are under a continuing resolution and are somewhat restricted in terms of what we can and cannot do. As for Senate Bill 2101, the status from Senator Levin's office is that they hope to get it reintroduced, but there is a deadlock in the Senate.

Consultations: Tom Baker has developed a form to be presented to the Cooperating Sites to deal with the daily requests for technical assistance. The form is an attempt to identify, prioritize and manage the demands on the work force. The Technical Assistance Services form has been developed and is provided for review and will be discussed in this afternoon's meeting. The Request for Services package was distributed to the Commission.

#### 1. Interpretation:

- A) Interpretation has done an incredible job with strategic planning consultation for Cooperating Sites to provide and elevate the interpretive program at each of those sites. Dan attended a training meeting for web site design in Harper's Ferry, WV. There will be some changes to it; one of the plans for the website is to include the Commission; post the minutes and all the activities that the participants on the Commission are doing so that it can get out to the public.
- B) A new park "unigrid" brochure is in the works that was designed by Harpers Ferry Center, which is the professional model. Hopefully it will be done for summer 05. There are 25,000 brochures that were produced on an interim basis. There are still some issues about how to identify and deal with Cooperating Sites. The "unigrids" are printed for a two-to-three year

cycle. When guidelines, protocols, and standards are in place, (and it should be a priority for the Advisory Commission to help get those in place), adding future Cooperating Sites revolves around printing and things that are related to other things that the park is doing. It is unclear if there will be a new "unigrid" out by next summer, but if not, the brochures will suffice.

- C) Kathleen Harter, Chief of Interpretation, is in Washington, DC. She was selected to participate in a national Junior Ranger Program, which is an emphasis that the administration wants to have in all parks. She is also working heavily with area teachers on an education program. She received additional money for next summer to do a "Teaching in Historic Places" curriculum, and will probably do an outstanding job.

A major effort to clean out and organize Warehouse #1 was accomplished with the assistance of Isle Royale maintenance personnel.

The Smelter: Frank attended a meeting in Chicago last Thursday with the Solicitor's Office, National Park Service representatives, and a representative from the Department of the Interior (DOI); they met with representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A very interesting meeting was had as to the status of the smelter and the NPS interests. Their position is that we are still operators. We objected to that. We've essentially agreed to disagree in terms of the legal aspect about who is responsible for site clean up. We agreed to resolve the main issue that the emergency response team is involved in, which is the asbestos issue. The results of the testing that was done this summer will be coming, not sure when exactly. The first phase of that has been a release that came out (possibly) in today's paper in terms of the DNR and the trail. The DNR trail will be open for snow machine use this winter. This issue has essentially divided into two camps, one of which is the heavy metals concentration, which was always known on that site, and the asbestos issue. If we resolve the asbestos issue, which we have pledged to do with the EPA in terms of engaging some consultants, along with the asbestos contractor, to make it safe to remove the asbestos within the building. It appears the EPA may be willing to pay for that asbestos removal. We're working to get some A & E folks identified and then get their contractors identified so that they can go in and do an evaluation within the next month or so. Once the asbestos issue is resolved, those folks will be finished and they will be very excited to turn that whole thing over to the Superfund folks who are involved with the Torch Lake cleanup. Because of the heavy metals concentration and the fact that the trail is owned by the DNR, there will probably be some sort of covering that is applied to form a hard surface on the trail. The issue becomes what will happen to the rest of that site, and not only that site, but also what becomes of the rest of the Keweenaw, because the issue and the substance is the same. Frank posed that question to them, but they didn't wish to address that issue, just the boundaries of the property, because that's where their interests lie. How that's resolved in the future will be very interesting, but overall, some progress was made during that meeting. The State of Michigan considers us to be "operators," too in terms of that site. It will be a very interesting issue to work with, and we will be doing so shortly.

A question was raised on what the Commission should be doing to help with the "Unigrid" brochure. Frank answered that since the document is printed for a two to three year period, what becomes important is the acknowledgement of the Cooperating Sites, should we do that. There may be an additional way to acknowledge Cooperating Sites, but if we don't have a site on there that actually becomes a Cooperating Site in that interim, it may create problems, and so we are trying to resolve that issue. Ron said that in terms of a level of standards for operating sites, that has been the focus of the last few meetings, and continues in this meeting and the next, collectively coming to agreement for operational standards for the cooperating sites. Ron also pointed out that the DNR is interested in identifying the heritage resources that exist along the M-26 trail corridor. At the Heritage Area meeting in Marquette, the Representative from the DNR real estate mentioned he thought it would be very appropriate for them to do some way planning along the trail to point out the historic resources that folks are going by, that they may be wondering about and not realizing exactly what they are. That could be an additional, a *slight* benefit from the controversy.

Veteran's Cemetery Fountain Presentation: Gene La Rochelle passed two pictures and offered a brief history of the Veteran's Cemetery Fountain. It was a WPA project, and the pictures date from 1935 or 1936. The fountain is located just to the east of the Lakeview Cemetery. It's referred to as a fountain, but it never had water in it. Perhaps a spring was tapped at one time, but there was never any piping from the cemetery to the fountain. It was built on mining company land which was later ceded to the Veterans groups in the area, who consequently turned the land over to Lakeview Cemetery, and is now owned by the New Lakeview Veteran's Cemetery, which is owned by the Lakeview Cemetery Board. It was a beautifully done monument with cedar log benches and Gene remembers riding his bike as a child and there was a whole series of benches on the north side of M-203 as you went out to the cemetery. The fountain is showing its age and is now part of a new Veteran's Cemetery, with room for about 750 burials. There is an advisory group of veterans who work with the Lakeview Cemetery Board, which meets on a yearly basis, and the group feels that either the fountain must be repaired or torn down. If it were to be restored, they would like to restore it to what the pictures show. There are two stonemasons in the area to be contacted, but the project needs funding. When the new monument was built and placed, Gene says he "wore out his welcome" with a lot of groups in raising \$25,000 in collections, services and equipment use, and feels hesitant to take this on. He wonders if the Commission could be one of the sponsors to restore and repair this beautiful piece of stonemasonry from the WPA era. Discussion followed. No bids have been made, so the cost is uncertain. The present condition is that the center (concrete) column has a lot of placed lakeshore rock in it, and the rock is either loose or has fallen out. There are old 12' (est.) drill rods used underground supporting the central column. Initially it was thought that because the drill rods are hollow, they carried and supplied water to the fountain, but no water supply was found. He wonders if there was a plan to have water, but it never materialized, because the catch-basin underneath around the central column (which has to be replaced, too; it is badly cracked) was a very substantially made piece of masonry, so he believes it was a catch-basin for the fountain overflowing and coming down. There are now flowers in the catch basin. The column is made of concrete. Kim Hoagland recommended consulting with park staff on restoration in a sensitive long-lasting manner. The question was asked if most of the original stone is still at the site, and the answer is yes. Another question is whether to make a fountain now, or restore it as it was. Gene says you could put a circulating pump in it, and maybe colored lights on it for evening display, or to run a supply line to the fountain itself and have some kind of operation, but it gets kind of pricey. Sue wondered where the water for the fountain that's further down from McClain came from? Gene answered that that taps into the spring that is right there. Also there was one other fountain a quarter of a mile down on Calumet Waterworks road that tapped into a spring. All remainder of that is long since gone, but the spring is still there, with a piece of clay tile pipe. It used to be used for watering horses.

Paul Lehto: With the Commission's approval, we'll keep contact with Gene as this project progresses and develops in terms of spring-fed fountains. It wouldn't meet Health Department standards any longer to have any kind of drinking-type fountain supplied by spring or artesian well. As for the fountain on M-203, the idea has been looked at to extend the water through the sewer treatment site, there is potable water that far, but that's still 4000 feet away. But it's not impossible to put a summer line in there buried two feet in the ground, and it's all downhill. Also, Paul suggested a standard "mini grant" form for requests of up to \$5,000. Ron has provided an application form to the Commission. Reverend Langseth, Sue Cone, Kim Hoagland, and Clyde Raasio volunteered to meet to discuss this matter further and Ron will set a time for a meeting to make a standard application, including a budget. Paul's original suggestion was about a year ago, and there was money carried over from the first fiscal year, and it looked to him that if there were a presentation for \$10,000 per quarterly meeting and you held the grants to \$2500 or \$5000, that it would put some life in the meetings and the public would have more involvement. He doesn't know if it is affordable, but it needs to be looked into. Ron will call everyone to set up a meeting time. Kim suggested that Gene not consider demolition. Paul said, to follow up on the fountain on

M-203, that some veterans wanted to make a memorial to Vietnam Veterans, and they were talking about restoring that as a project, and reiterated that water could be run to that fountain.

## **VI. Review and Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with some questions: Clyde Raasio on a comment on page 5 attributed to him about the Torch Lake PAC has taken a position in support of Franklin Township and the Park, he doesn't think he made the comment. Sue Cone was unsure of her comments as well. Perhaps Paul made the comment. One commissioner suggested that the minutes get to the Committee members sooner. In today's instance the recording secretary had changed residence and lost track of the tape for transcription for awhile.

## **VII. Commissioner's Reports**

Bob Langseth thanked Kathleen Harter and Susan Burack for helping in two sessions for the Heritage Center to develop the priorities and the interpretive planning. He also visited four of the National Parks in Tanzania this past summer. They can learn cultural preservation from us and we can learn land use from them. Also, the Heritage Center's Endowment Fund is part of the Keweenaw Community Foundation Fund, and they have a fundraiser on Thursday, October 28, and tickets are available for those who would like to attend.

Tom Nemacheck stated that tourism in the U.P. is down this summer due to weather, but a few areas bucked the trend. It was 20% down in some areas, which translates to tens of millions of expected dollars that weren't spent in the U.P. this year. There are a lot of reasons: the weather, the economy, and the price of gas. Gas prices play a big role, perhaps not in the particular trip, but in the family budget throughout the year. Escanaba and Marquette bucked the trend with scheduled events and activities that attracted people, and weather didn't matter. People were coming anyway. Their expenditures in those counties were either up or flat as opposed to down in the other thirteen counties. The Straits of Mackinac area businesses were down as well, as much as 20%, but the Mackinac Historic State Park enjoyed increased attendance. A lot fewer people got on the ferry to go to the Island, and the motel occupancies in Mackinac City, St. Ignace, and Mackinac Island showed a lot fewer people. Kathleen Harter was working with school groups in May and June, and the difference in attendance to the attractions underneath the umbrella known as the Mackinac State Parks: their May/June business was phenomenal and is attributed to visiting school groups from the cities. This plays a big role in the economics of the community. The school groups come up and spend a night or two and take in the attractions. It was noted that this park has a clear potential to bring school groups in. Efforts should be made to convince the teachers and the history people at the high schools to visit the park. These programs enhance the numbers of people attending and it could mean tens of millions of dollars. Tom feels that this park could play a similar role in helping the economy of this area. Dan Johnson said that some of that has already begun: the Interpretation and Education Division of the park has already started some outreach. A big target area is the fourth graders because that's the year they learn Michigan History. Just last week, Kathleen Harter hosted a teacher workshop to make those connections with the local schools. Tom said the school groups come up in May and early June, which is not summer yet. He reiterated that the communities that prospered were because of activities, and structure and events planning. It was pointed out that there was one new event this year, the Copper Country Homecoming and Old Settlers' Ball. It probably didn't spike the numbers because it was over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, which is a max period anyway. A lot of attendees stayed in other places because the motels were full. Tom encouraged event planning with school groups in off times, like May and early June.

Clyde Raasio said that the additional lane on Quincy Hill is a big improvement and also the water problem at French Town Road has been corrected. He commended the new sign at the Quincy Mine Hoist. He wondered if it has resulted in increased visitors. Steve DeLong said that the logo section is not quite complete and the new NPS arrowhead will be applied there and increase the identification with the Park Service.



Paul Lehto said the new Calumet Armory would be closed in by deer season. He expressed pleasure with the quality of the building. The old building needs work on handicap access, restrooms, and fire doors. Fifty-seven Guardsmen from the 107<sup>th</sup> are being activated within the next two weeks. The troops that are left will be moved for training purposes to Baraga. There is a good relationship with the guard. They are vacating and the Hockey Association is taking it over. The building is not ADA compliant, so work must be done on a handicap access, toilets, fire doors and access to the second floor to make it a public building. We have filed for a Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) from MEDC, and they are expected to be announced by January. One mil for operations for the township was approved at the August election. Calumet Avenue repairs are finally completed.

#### **VI. Reports/Comments from Legislative Staff:**

Amy Wisti said that Congressman Bart Stupak was at the UP Manager's meeting on Friday at Baraga. Paul mentioned that they're planning a National Guard reunion in conjunction with the dedication of the building, and the Congressman will get an invitation, and he would like to see all the representatives at that meeting.

#### **VII. Comments/Questions from the public**

Ed Yarbrough gave an update on the roundhouse and boiler house emergency stabilization grant through the Midwest region. The work on the roundhouse stabilization is complete. The Quincy Mine Hoist is clearing up the brush. The boiler house is also quite far along, and four Z Truss ore cars that are stored on the second floor will be pulled out and set on rails where they can be better stabilized, and also will help the stability of the building. There is ongoing work in the mine, on the tramcar, and completing the ADA work on the gift shop and the visitor center. They tried to do that work through partial donations and also paying the full rate for things. The sign is underway but not quite complete. He commended Steve Delong on his excellent technical assistance. He also thanked Kathleen for help; they sent one of their people on the staff at Quincy as a teacher to an ISD meeting through a grant from the park service, and there are two teachers on the staff who are writing a new interpretive program just for the classes. They get classes from every school district, from Baraga and Ontonagon, most of whom come from both fourth grade and high school students. The Visitor Center / Gift Shop will be open between Thanksgiving and Christmas and for Winter Carnival as well, a first. They are working on safety issues, environmental and personal, adding a barrier for the tractor to protect it from rocks underground. They are putting in containment for the oil supplies for various machinery for environmental safety. They will be talking more about the standards at the Cooperating Sites.

Denise Korman introduced herself and thanked Dan and Kathleen and Frank for their support for the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan to interpret the Mill Site that they are located on. They had David Vago, a graduate student at Michigan Tech for the last year doing all the research onsite and he will be working again this year under the same grant to help develop an interpretive plan. Dan facilitated the first meeting, which was an unqualified success. Everyone is very excited and there is much more understanding of the incredible resource that they are physically located on and the story that they have to tell. She reiterated thanks to everyone from the Park Service that has helped. Also, thanks to Steve DeLong for working to replace and install a total of 9 new signs, hopefully by spring. The Leo Chaput Visitors Center and Gift Shop will open in the spring. Leo is a 14-year volunteer at the museum. There will be an Awards Banquet on Tuesday, October 26 at the Miscowabic Club, \$15 per person, everyone is invited. Awards will be given to Jay Rowe, John Siller and Ralph Raffaelli for their work on the Old Settlers' Ball and the Copper Country Homecoming, and to George Hite for the work he does keeping the local history in the Keweenaw alive on his website, which has been operating for years. The Bill Martell Leadership Award will be given to Richard Taylor for the work he has done with the locomotive at the site. The guest speaker will be Ed Koeppe, who will share his knowledge, slides and information regarding mill locations along the shoreline of Torch Lake.

Julie Sprenger said the Laurium National Register District Nomination is at the Review Board as of Friday, so if all goes well, in two weeks it will be listed in the Federal Register, and by January we will have a nomination.

The Keweenaw Convention and Visitors Bureau is looking at a 7% drop in tourism this year. They are pleased that it's such a minor drop, compared to everyone else in the Midwest. This is the first year to have advertised with a 44-page color directory.

Julie thanked Jonathon for looking at the project to stabilize the turntable in the carriage house. He found the pattern drawings for it. They are slowly proceeding on that.

Dave Thomas reported a 20% decrease in attendance at the Keweenaw County Historical Society.

Julie said that the tours at the Laurium Manor Inn were 28% down.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.